UNITED
NATIONS

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1994/632
27 May 1994

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL PURSUANT TO SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 845 (1993)

1. The present interim report is submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution 845 (1993) of 18 June 1993 concerning the difference between Greece and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, by which, inter alia, the Council requested me to keep it informed on the progress of further efforts under my auspices. Its purpose is to provide the Council with a brief update on developments in the mission of good offices of Mr. Cyrus Vance since my letter to the President of the Security Council of 1 April 1994 (S/1994/376).

2. On 13 April, Mr. Vance began an intensive series of parallel meetings with the parties. He met a delegation of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia headed by Foreign Minister Stevo Crvenkovski on 13, 15, 17, 19 and 24 April. Mr. Vance also met with a Greek delegation headed by Ambassador Zacharakis, Secretary-General of the Foreign Ministry, on 14 and 18 April. On 25 and 27 April, Mr. Vance met Foreign Minister Karolos Papoulias of Greece, who was then accompanying Prime Minister Papandreou on his visit to the United States of America. On 25 and 26 April, Mr. Vance had further meetings with Foreign Minister Crvenkovski. On 28 April, Mr. Vance and I met Prime Minister Papandreou and, later, Foreign Minister Crvenkovski.

3. On 13 May, Mr. Vance met Ambassador Zacharakis to hear further views of the Government of Greece on the issues under discussion. He discussed these issues with Foreign Minister Crvenkovski on 15 May. On 16 May, Mr. Vance again met both delegations.

4. During the first series of discussions beginning on 13 April, Mr. Vance presented a draft interim accord as a basis of discussion. This draft was a condensation of the draft accord confirming the existing common frontier as an inviolable international border and establishing measures for confidence-building, friendship and neighbourly cooperation which Mr. Vance had given the parties at Geneva on 10 March 1994. In preparing the draft interim accord, Mr. Vance took account of the reactions of the parties to the document from which it was derived, particularly a suggestion from one of them that it could be helpful to proceed in a two-stage process. The purpose of the draft interim accord was to advance the process by achieving preliminary agreement on a limited number of issues, including the question of the frontier between the parties, the interpretation of the Constitution of the former Yugoslav Republic

of Macedonia, the question of hostile activities and propaganda, and the "countermeasures" adopted by Greece. It was intended that other issues be left to a second phase. During this phase of the discussions, Mr. Vance worked extensively with the parties to explore their positions on the draft interim accord and to modify the draft in the light of this work.

5. By 25 April, it had become clear that the parties could not at that time reach agreement on the draft interim accord. Foreign Minister Papoulias suggested to Mr. Vance that he prepare proposals based on a broad approach including many of the main issues comprising the difference between the parties. After further intensive discussions with the parties, Mr. Vance followed this suggestion and presented his detailed proposals, also based on the 10 March draft, to both parties later the same week. In my meetings with Prime Minister Papandreou and Foreign Minister Crvenkovski on 28 April, I urged them to make every effort to achieve early agreement which would be of great benefit to both parties. Both delegations returned to their respective capitals to give the proposals detailed study before returning to New York to review them with Mr. Vance.

6. During Mr. Vance's meetings with the parties from 13 to 16 May, he found some interest on both sides in the ideas he had presented at the end of April and also explored some new ones. However, it was still not possible to reach agreement on all points. Accordingly, Mr. Vance on 16 May suggested to the two delegations that they return to their capitals to reflect further on the various approaches that had been discussed. At the same time, he invited the parties to return to New York on or about 13 June for further talks under his auspices, at the level of Foreign Ministers. Both parties have accepted this invitation. On 17 May, a press release was issued concerning these arrangements (see annex).

7. I am aware that the legality of the "countermeasures" announced by Greece on 16 February 1994 is being adjudicated in the European Court of Justice, and that the resolution of this litigation has a bearing on the difference between the parties. However, I do not consider that this case should have any direct bearing on the mission of good offices under my auspices, and I have requested Mr. Vance to proceed with his discussions as expeditiously as possible.

8. I expect to report further to the Security Council on the substance of Mr. Vance's discussions after his meetings with the parties in June.

Annex

Press release dated 17 May 1994 by the Spokesman for the Secretary-General

In ongoing efforts pursuant to Security Council resolution 845 (1993), delegations of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, headed by Foreign Minister Stevo Crvenkovski, and Greece, headed by the Secretary-General of the Foreign Ministry, Christos Zacharakis, have held parallel, in-depth talks with Cyrus Vance, the Mediator between Greece and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, in New York since 13 May. The parties exchanged views with Mr. Vance on various suggestions which had been submitted to them.

Both parties, in response to the Mediator's invitation, have agreed to return to New York on or about 13 June for further talks under his auspices, at the level of Foreign Minister.